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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1 (Currently Amended). A decoding protection method with a video data
- 2 encoding method using a DCT (Discrete Cosine Transform) method of an MPEG
- 3 algorithm, for operating on information which is transferred through a medium and
- 4 comprises main data which are to be decoded, the method comprising the steps of:
- 5 detecting medium protection data which are also transferred through said
- 6 medium;
- 7 limiting decoding based upon at least a film classification system;
- 8 generating apparatus protection data which comprise at least first apparatus
- 9 protection data and second apparatus protection data,
- 10 wherein said first apparatus protection data are specific to a region or a
- 11 country in which said main data are to be decoded and are unmodifiable by a recipient
- 12 of said main data and said second apparatus protection data can be modified by the
- 13 recipient to selectively define a plurality of protection levels including at least two
- 14 levels which are respectively specific to adults and to children;
- 15 defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and on said
- 16 apparatus protection data, in combination; and
- 17 executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection
- 18 level,

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19 wherein the combination of said medium protection data and said first
20 apparatus protection data specifies that said main data are decoded either in their
21 entirety or not at all, and the combination of said medium protection data and said
22 second apparatus protection data specifies that said main data are decoded in their
23 entirety, partially, or not at all,
24 wherein, for each combination of protection levels based on said medium
25 protection data and said apparatus protection data, there is a corresponding range of
26 one or more possible values of final protection level, said corresponding range
27 extending from a least severe value to a most severe value.

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29 2 (Original). A decoding protection method in accordance with claim 1,
30 wherein said step of executing decoding of said main data comprises:

31 decoding said main data either in their entirety or not at all, in accordance
32 with said combination of said medium protection data and said first apparatus
33 protection data, and

34 decoding said main data in their entirety, partially, or not at all, in accordance
35 with said combination of said medium protection data and said second apparatus
36 protection data.

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38 3 (Original). A decoding protection method in accordance with claim 2,
39 wherein said step of executing decoding of said main data further comprises
40 executing decoding of said main data in accordance with a value of final protection

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41 level between the least severe value and the most severe value in accordance with said
42 combination of protection levels.

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44 4 (Original). A decoding protection method in accordance with claim 1,
45 wherein said step of executing decoding of said main data further comprises
46 executing decoding of said main data in accordance with a value of final protection
47 level between the least severe value and the most severe value in accordance with said
48 combination of protection levels.